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1844

CONSTITUTION,

BY-LAWS,

CHARTER, CIRCULAR

AND

MEMBERS

OF THE

Maryland Historical Society.

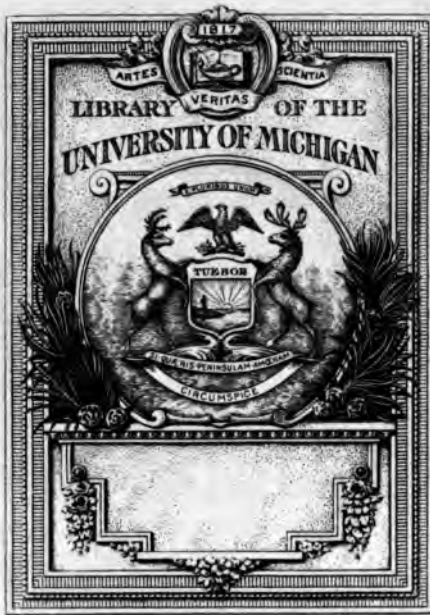


BALTIMORE:

PRINTED BY JOHN MURPHY,

136 MARKET STREET.

1844.



1775
1826
1831
CONSTITUTION,

242

BY - LAWS,

CHARTER, CIRCULAR

AND

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BALTIMORE:
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146 MARKET STREET.

1844.



CONSTITUTION
OF THE
MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Article I.

THIS society shall be styled the “**MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.**” Its object shall be to collect, preserve and diffuse, information relating to the Civil, Natural and Literary History of the State of Maryland, and American History and Biography generally.

Article II.

THIS society shall consist of Active, Corresponding, and Honorary Members.

ACTIVE MEMBERS shall consist of citizens of the State residing in Baltimore, or within fifteen miles thereof.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS shall consist of citizens of the State residing elsewhere therein.

HONORARY MEMBERS shall consist of persons distinguished for their literary or scientific attainments,—particularly in the department of History—throughout the world.

Article III.

The officers of this society shall consist of a President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian, who shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the society, from the class defined in Art. II, as Active members. Should a vacancy occur in any of these offices, by death, resignation, removal or otherwise, it may be filled up by ballot of the members present at the monthly meetings provided for in the next article.

Article IV.

The annual meeting of the society shall be held on the first Thursday of February, and meetings shall be held for the ordinary transactions and purposes of the society on the first Thursday of every month.

At the annual meetings, the officers of the society shall be elected by ballot; and, at the monthly meetings new members shall be proposed and voted for.

In order to become an active or corresponding member of this society, the name of the party applying or proposed therefor, must be given in writing, to the Recording Secretary at the meeting previous to the one on which he is to be balloted for, and three negative votes shall exclude the candidate from membership.

All active and corresponding members shall pay on admission, the sum of five dollars, and a subsequent annual contribution of five dollars.

Article V.

The citizens of each County in the State of Maryland, who are Corresponding members of this society, are authorised and empowered to form within each of their respective Counties, a Chapter of this society, the President of which Chapter, elected by the county members, shall be *ex-officio* a Vice President of the Maryland Historical Society.

It shall be the duty of these Chapters to meet at least once a month, at such times and places within their respective counties as they may see proper to appoint.

At these meetings, essays, local historical accounts, memoirs on the natural history of the county, or documents of interest to the State generally, may be presented, or prepared; all of which shall be forwarded to the Corresponding Secretary of the Historical Society, by the President of the Chapter, together with all other collections relative to the civil, natural, or literary history of the State; in order that they may be preserved in the archives and cabinets of the Institution.

Article VI.

This Constitution may be amended from time to time, as the society shall deem proper ; but a motion for an amendment shall not be received unless a notice thereof shall have been given and entered on the journals of the Society at the last preceding meeting.

BY - LAWS
OF THE
MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

I.

THE President, or in his absence, the highest officer present, shall preside at all meetings of this society. Seven members of the society shall constitute a quorum, at the monthly meeting; and, at the annual meeting, those of the members who are present, shall constitute a quorum.

The duty of the President or presiding officer shall be, to preserve order, regulate the order of proceedings and give the casting vote when required.

II.

The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct all the correspondence of the society;—he shall preserve the originals of all communications addressed to the Society, and keep a fair copy of all his letters in books.

It shall moreover be his duty to read to the Society the correspondence which he has sustained since the previous meeting.

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He shall likewise present all the documents, essays, collections or contributions, of whatever nature, that he has received since the last meeting from the President of the several Chapters of this Society, or from other sources.

III.

The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of this Society, and, at the opening of each of them, shall read those of the preceding; he shall have the custody of the constitution, by-laws and records; shall give due notice of the time and place of all the Society's meetings; and he shall keep, in books, a neat and accurate record of all the orders and proceedings of the Society.

IV.

The Treasurer shall receive, and keep deposited in Bank, to the credit of the Society, all donations and bequests of money, and all other sums belonging to the Society. He shall pay all such sums as may be due by the Society, by checks, countersigned by the President, or some member authorized in writing by the President to act in his absence. He shall keep a faithful account of all moneys received and paid by him, and, once in every year, render a particular statement of the same to the Society, which shall appoint a committee of three members to audit and report on his accounts to the annual meeting.

V.

The Librarian shall preserve, arrange and keep in good order, all books, MSS., documents, pamphlets, papers and contributions of every kind, to the library or cabinet of the Society. He shall keep a catalogue of the same, and take especial care that no books, MSS., documents, papers, or any property of the Society, pertaining to the library and cabinet, confided to his keeping, be, under any pretext, or by the permission or authority of any officer, removed or taken from the Society's rooms. He shall be furnished with a book in which to record all donations and bequests of whatever nature, relating to his department, with the name of the donor and the time when bestowed. He shall carefully number the books, MSS., and collections, and mark them with the title of this Society and the name of the donor or depositor.

VI.

A committee of three, on the library, shall be appointed by ballot, at the annual meeting, to serve until the election of their successors, and shall have the supervisory care of all publications by the Society, under the provisions of the 1st Art. of the Constitution. They shall, with the Librarian, provide suitable shelves, cases and fixtures, by which to arrange and display the books, manuscripts, and collections of the Society.

VII.

The Society shall select by ballot, at the sixth monthly meeting antecedent to the annual meeting, one of its Active or Corresponding members, who shall be requested by the President to deliver a Historical Discourse at said annual meeting. And at the same time the Society shall appoint such other exercises to accompany the delivery of the annual discourse as shall be appropriate to the occasion.

VIII.

No books, MSS., or property of the Society shall be, at any time, lent to any person, to be removed from the Society's rooms.

IX.

Any failure on the part of a member, after due notice for six months by the Treasurer, to pay his annual dues, shall be considered a forfeiture of membership, and no person who has thus lost his membership shall be re-admitted without the strict payment of all arrears.

X.

All vacancies in committees by death, resignation, or otherwise, shall be filled by the other members of the committee.

XI.

In the event of the dissolution of the Maryland Historical Society, at any period, the books, collections, documents, and all objects of interest presented to or deposited with the Society, shall be returned to the original owners or depositors, or to their representatives. And if neither owners, depositors, nor representatives are to be found, then the said books, documents, or objects shall be presented to some scientific or literary institution.

An Act

TO INCORPORATE THE

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

WHEREAS sundry citizens of Maryland have associated for the purpose of collecting, preserving and diffusing information, relating to the civil, natural and literary history of this State, and to American history and biography generally,—and have applied to the General Assembly to incorporate said association:

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Brantz Mayer, John P. Kennedy, John H. B. Latrobe, Robert Gilmore, John V. L. McMahon, Charles F. Mayer, Frederick William Brune, Jr., Sebastian F. Streeter, John L. Carey, George W. Dobbin, John Spear Smith, Bernard U. Campbell, William G. Lyford, Stephen Collins, Fielding Lucas, John I. Donaldson, Robert Cary Long, William A. Talbot, S. Teackle Wallis, Charles S. W. Gwinn, Joshua I. Cohen, John S. Sumner, members of said association, and their present and future associates, and their successors, be and they are hereby constituted and created a body politic and corporate, by the name of "THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY,"

and by that name shall have perpetual succession, with all the faculties and liabilities of a corporation, and may for, and to promote, the declared objects aforesaid, of said association, acquire and hold, and at pleasure, alienate, chattels and real property and real estate, and may acquire the same by devise or bequest or otherwise: *Provided*, That the value of such acquisitions at any one time held, shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars, and may have and use, and, at discretion, change, a common seal, may ordain bye-laws, rules and regulations, such as said corporate body may deem proper, not inconsistent with this Act, or the Law or Constitution of this State or of the United States; and, in like manner, may establish a constitution for said corporate body.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That the said corporate body, may have such officers or managers and otherwise (who shall exercise the powers conferred on this corporation) as may be instituted and designated by the bye-laws or constitution aforesaid, and to be elected at such times and for such period, and in such manner, and with such qualifications, duties and powers as the said bye-laws or constitution of the Society may prescribe.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation shall be deemed to have the power at any time hereafter, to procure and collect a general and miscellaneous library to be controlled and availed

of according to the rules and provisions in the constitution or bye-laws of the corporation.

STATE OF MARYLAND, TO WIT:

Be it remembered, and we hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true copy of the Act entitled "An Act to incorporate The Maryland Historical Society," which passed the General Assembly of Maryland, December Session, one thousand eight hundred and forty-three.

Given under our hands at the city of Annapolis, this 8th day of March, 1844.

GEORGE G. BREWER,

Clerk, House of Delegates, Md.

JOS. H. NICHOLSON,

Clerk, Senate of Maryland.

EXTRACT FROM THE

Society's Circular Letter.

As you may desire to know the objects and collections which will be of especial interest and particularly acceptable to the Society for its cabinets, library and archives, we have deemed it advisable to annex the following list.

I. Manuscripts, original letters, pamphlets, and books relative to any epochs of the history of Maryland, of other States, or of the Union.

II. Laws, journals, copies of records and proceedings of Congresses, Legislatures, General Assemblies, Conventions, Committees of safety, Councils and secret committees;—treaties and negotiations with Indian tribes, or with any State or nation.

III. Orations, sermons, essays, discourses, poems, tracts written or delivered on any public occasion, or in reference to any remarkable event or character,—especially biographical memoirs and anecdotes of distinguished persons in this State, or who have been connected with its settlement or history.

IV. Autographs and coins;—especially those belonging to the early colonial history of our country.

V. Proceedings of Ecclesiastical conventions or councils of all denominations;—narratives of missionaries or of missionary enterprise, histories of colonization, slavery and abolition.

VI. Narratives of Indian wars, battles and exploits; of the adventures and sufferings of captives, voyagers, and travellers; legends of the Indians or of early settlers and pioneers.

VII. Indian antiquities, idols, arms, utensils;—accounts of ancient cities, mounds, monuments, fortifications, or encampments; and any facts or reasoning that may illustrate the doubtful question of the origin of the North American tribes.

VIII. Genealogies of families, especially of the early settlers, brought down to the present time;—relics of early settlers of the State.

IX. Specimens in every department of natural history—especially of Maryland.

X. Transactions of societies for historical, literary, scientific or political purposes, and catalogues of libraries.

XI. Topographical descriptions of towns, cities, counties, or states; with maps, accounts of colleges, academies, and public schools—their origin and progress.

XII. Tables of diseases, births, deaths, &c.—Meteorological tables.

XIII. Accounts of export and import, progress of

agriculture, commerce, and manufactures :—Statistics of all kinds.

XIV. Memoirs and essays,—historical or scientific,—of the towns and cities of Maryland.

XV. Magazines, reviews, pamphlets, tracts, newspapers ;—especially the early papers published in Maryland.

All communications or donations to the Society for its library, cabinet, or archives, are to be addressed to the Corresponding Secretary. A convenient room in this city has been provided and suitably furnished ;—and the names of donors will be noted both on the articles presented and in the Journals of the Society.

BRANTZ MAYER,

S. TEACKLE WALLIS,

FREDERICK W. BRUNE, Jr.

Committee of Hist. Soc.

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